



NEWS RELEASE

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Severe Thunderstorms Possible for Northwest Michigan *Stay Safe during Cleanup, Be Aware of Hanging Tree Debris*

Lansing, Mich. – With severe thunderstorms possible later today, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is reminding residents and visitors in northwest Michigan to be aware of hanging tree debris that could pose a danger during a storm.

The National Weather Service is forecasting the possibility of severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and isolated tornadoes throughout the northern Lower Peninsula between noon and 7 p.m. today.

"With storms possible, citizens need to be mindful of any loose or hanging tree debris caused by the severe storms a couple of weeks ago," said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. "Be extra careful when working outside and take the appropriate precautions if a storm occurs."

To prepare for severe weather:

- Remove hanging trees and branches that could fall on your home or vehicles with strong winds.
- Postpone outdoor cleanup activities until the storm has passed.
- Secure outdoor objects that could be blown around, such as tarps, trash cans and other cleanup materials.
- Sign up to receive text or email alerts from your local media or local emergency management agency to stay informed before and during severe weather.
- Prepare for a power outage by charging phones and other electronic devices.

About the Disaster

Gov. Rick Snyder declared a "state of disaster" on Aug. 10 for Grand Traverse County after severe thunderstorms caused widespread and severe damage on Aug. 2. Upon direction of the governor, the MSP/EMHSD amended the declaration to include Leelanau County on Aug. 14.

MORE

By declaring a "state of disaster," the state of Michigan has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery efforts in the disaster area.

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The SEOC is the emergency operations center for the state of Michigan. Located in Lansing, the SEOC is overseen by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and coordinates response and recovery efforts by state agencies and local government. The SEOC is staffed by members of state agencies for decision making and information coordination during disasters or emergencies in the state of Michigan.

NOTE: Grand Traverse County residents can sign up for CodeRED alerts to receive breaking emergency and weather updates. To sign up, go to www.grandtraverse.org and click on the CodeRED logo.

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